

INFORMATION REPORT

COUNTRY Colombia

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~SUBJECT Communist Views of the Militant Conservative
Group

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1. At a recent meeting of leaders of the Communist Party of Colombia (PCC), the existence of a group of Conservative leaders who are trying to organize their Party along the lines of the Spanish Falange, in anticipation of strong opposition to President Mariano Ospina Perez by the Liberal Party, was discussed. This group had vigorously opposed the bill in the House of Representatives which provided amnesty for the individuals who participated in the 9 April ~~meeting~~ ^{recent} Comment. The leaders of the Conservative Party started a great deal of pressure before they were able to secure votes in favor of the bill from this group. The bill has now been passed.)

2. The PCC leaders claimed that during a recent trip in southern Colombia, Gilberto Alzate Avendano and Jose Maria Villarroel, leaders of the militant Conservative group, agitated among the Conservative farmers for the formation of a militant bloc. This bloc was to be under the jurisdiction of the Bogota headquarters of the group. Members of the PCC reported that this militant group had adopted a policy of violence. As a result of these reports, Gilberto Vieira White, Secretary General of the PCC, ordered the PCC Departmental Committees to maintain a close check on all the individuals concerned and to obtain their names and addresses. The PCC fears that the militant Conservatives will create serious incidents during the March 1949 elections.

3. The PCC leaders, who claim that Alzate has totalitarian sympathies, discussed his recent trip to the Dominican Republic at the invitation of President Trujillo. The visit was reportedly for the purpose of obtaining financial support for the Conservative Party and for Alzate's newspaper, Eco Nacional. The PCC hopes to secure specific information concerning the funds, since it would enable the Party to expose Alzate for violating a provision of the Colombian Constitution which forbids any newspaper to accept foreign financial support. The PCC claims that Alzate is financing offices throughout the country and that his expenses exceed the financial resources of his group.

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the militant Conservative organization has been extremely inactive during October. Colonel Agudelo, the motivating force in the movement, has accused the departmental directorates, as well as the national directorate, of losing interest in the movement and of not providing the necessary financial support.)

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